

1. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning a patient's arms when in a prone or supine position on a patient support comprising:

- (a) at least one soft cushion pad with a central portion positionable under the patient's body;
- (b) on said at least one soft cushion pad, a soft cushion pad right arm upper section positionable around an upper right arm of a patient including means for attaching said soft cushion pad right arm upper section to said central portion of said at least one soft cushion pad so that said soft cushion pad right arm upper section is folded around a patient's upper right arm;
- (c) on said at least one soft cushion pad, a left soft cushion pad arm upper section positionable around an upper left arm of a patient including means for attaching said left arm soft cushion pad upper section to said central portion of said at least one soft cushion pad so that said soft cushion pad left arm upper section is folded around a patient's upper left arm;
- (d) on said at least one soft cushion pad, a right soft cushion pad arm lower section positionable around a lower right arm of a patient including means for attaching said soft cushion pad right arm lower section to said central portion of said at least one soft cushion pad so that said soft cushion pad right arm lower section is folded around a patient's lower right arm;
- (e) on said at least one soft cushion pad, a soft cushion pad left arm lower section positionable around a lower left arm of a patient including means for attaching said soft cushion pad left arm lower section to said central portion of said at least one soft cushion pad so that said soft cushion pad left arm lower section is folded around a patient's lower left arm.

2. (Previously amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning a patient's arms when in a prone or supine position on a patient support of Claim 1 wherein said soft cushion pad is made of material that is easily cut whereby a portion of the soft cushion pad may be cut away when necessary for visualizing a portion of a patient's body that may be otherwise covered by said at

least one soft cushion pad.

3. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning a patient's arms when in a prone or supine position on a patient support of Claim 2 wherein said soft cushion pad right upper arm section means for attaching, said soft cushion pad left arm upper section means for attaching, said soft cushion pad right arm lower section means for attaching, and said soft cushion pad left arm lower section means for attaching readily attach and detach whereby said soft cushion pad right arm upper section, soft cushion pad left arm upper section, soft cushion pad right arm lower section, and soft cushion pad left arm lower section may be easily and quickly attached and detached from said central portion of said at least one soft cushion pad.

4. (Previously amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning a patient's arms when in a prone or supine position on a patient support of Claim 3 wherein said at least one soft cushion pad is radiolucent.

5. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning a patient's arms when in a prone or supine position on a patient support of Claim 4 wherein said at least one soft cushion pad is comprised of a first rectangular section, a second rectangular section, with said first and second rectangular sections connected thereby forming a generally H shape with said soft cushion pad right arm upper section, soft cushion pad left arm upper section, soft cushion pad right arm lower section, and soft cushion pad left arm lower section comprising legs of said general H shape.

6. (Original) An arm protection apparatus for positioning a patient's arms when in a prone or supine position on a patient support of Claim 5 wherein said generally H shape has a width approximately equal to the length of a patient's torso.

7. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning at least one arm of a patient comprising:

- (a) at least one central cushion pad, said central cushion pad sized to be positioned under the torso of a patient;

- (b) attached on said central cushion pad, at least one arm section cushion pad with an arm end extending away from said central cushion pad, said at least one arm section cushion pad sized to loop around at least a portion of an arm of a patient;
- (c) means for attaching said arm end of said at least one arm section cushion pad to said central cushion pad whereby at least a portion of an arm of a patient may be contained within said at least one arm section cushion pad looped around an arm of a patient and held into place in proximity to a patient's torso.

8. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning at least one arm of a patient of Claim 7 wherein said central cushion pad is sized whereby there are a plurality of said arm section cushion pads.

9. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning at least one arm of a patient of Claim 8 wherein said plurality of arm section cushion pads are radiolucent.

10. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning at least one arm of a patient of Claim 9 wherein said means for attaching readily attach and detach whereby said plurality of arm section cushion pads may be quickly used to secure a patient's arm or to unsecure a patient's arm in proximity to a patient's torso.

11. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning at least one arm of a patient of Claim 10 wherein said plurality of arm sections cushion pads are constructed of material that is easily cut whereby a portion of said plurality of arm section cushion pads may be cut away when necessary for visualizing a patient's arm folded within said arm section cushion pads.

12. (Currently amended) An arm protection apparatus for positioning at least one arm of a patient of Claim 11 wherein there are four arm section cushion pads attached to said central cushion pad, each arm section cushion pads sized to fit around approximately one-half of a patient's arm.

Claim Rejection 102

Examiner rejected Claims 7 - 12 as being anticipated by Witter US Patent # 3,884,325. It is, of course basic patent law for a reference to serve as a 102 (b) bar, every element of a claim must be shown in the reference. Witter has a fleece cushion (20) which has extending from it straps (17) and (18) and straps (12) and (13). The fleece pad (20) is positioned on a thin sheet (10) of muslin or other suitable textile fabric. In terms of relative size of the sheet (10) and the cushion pad (20), it is explained that the width of the sheet is 54 inches and of the pad 30 inches. Thus, it is seen as shown in Figure 1 that the sheet (10) extends substantially beyond that of the cushion pad (20) and extending further still are the straps (12) and (13), (17) and (18). Claim 7 as amended clarifies that at least one arm section is also comprised of a cushion pad. Because Claim 7 as amended now specifies that the arm section is composed of a soft cushion pad as is the central pad, Witter can no longer be a 102 (b) reference for Claim 7.

Necessarily since Witter no longer anticipates Claim 7, it cannot anticipate Claims 8 - 12.

Claim Rejections Section 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 as being unpatentable over Vinci in view of Witter and Tari. Applicant incorporates by reference herein the remarks made in a response filed on 29 September 2004 for rejections previously raised by Examiner of Claims 1-6 as a combination of Vinci in view of Tari. As pointed out in those remarks, neither Vinci nor Tari describe a need to provide cushioning for a patient's arm against outside pressure or forces. Adding Witter does nothing to overcome the essential deficiencies of Vinci and Tari as references for the Applicant's Claims 1-6. Claim 1, as currently amended, requires a right upper arm section of the soft cushionable pad. Neither Vinci nor Tari nor Witter together offer anything other than straps for positioning a patient's arms - hence do not offer the essential function of the Applicant's invention of a soft cushion pad for positioning around a patient's arm and for protection of a patient's arm.